

Coins

Collectors are in the chips during coin week

By Roger Boye

SOME COIN collectors become especially boastful about this greatest of hobbies during one week each April, National Coin Week [Sunday through Saturday this year].

No other hobby, they proclaim, offers the fun and educational enrichment of coin collecting. They talk about how the markings on coins can provide lessons in history that few textbooks can match.

And some collectors, the lucky ones, might even be heard describing how they found a valuable coin in circulation, or made lots of

money with the right coin "investment."

So, if you think some of your coin collecting friends are rather smug and proud during the next week, be forgiving. It's their special week.

THE AMERICAN coin collector's appetite for anything called "government proof set" seems almost insatiable at times.

This year the United States Mint will accept orders for its six-coin proof sets for less than two months. During that time [April 1 to May 30, at the latest], it expects to receive orders for more than four million sets, the production capacity, and that's with orders limited to five

sets per customer. Orders received after the cut-off date are returned.

The mint executives of the British government, which also wants to tap this rich American market, has opened an office in Newark, N.J., to sell British proof sets dated from 1972 to 1976. This is the first time the British Royal Mint has sold these sets to North American collectors, although they have been sold to collectors in Great Britain.

The price for the five sets—one from each year—is \$65. The address to use for order blanks is British Royal Mint, P.O. Box 3175, Newark, N.J. 07103.